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Peacebuilding Commission
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Draft second review of the outcome of the high-level special session of the Peacebuilding Commission on Sierra Leone

The Peacebuilding Commission

1. *Recalls* the outcome of its high-level special session on Sierra Leone held on 10 June 2009 (PBC/3/SLE/6);

2. *Welcomes* the second joint progress report on the Agenda for Change, and expresses appreciation to the Government of Sierra Leone, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), the United Nations country team, international partners and civil society for preparing this comprehensive progress report;

3. *Notes* the enormous opportunities before Sierra Leone, as provided by its natural resources wealth, and, at the same time, the imperative of managing such resources for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans and the further strengthening of peace consolidation and economic development;

4. *Welcomes* the steady progress also reflected in the joint report prepared by Sierra Leone with the support of UNIPSIL, the United Nations country team and international partners, and in particular notes with appreciation:

(a) The organization of the Sierra Leone Conference on Development and Transformation, with financial support from the United Nations, to chart the way forward for Sierra Leone over the next fifty years;

(b) Recent decisions by the Government to establish an Independent Police Complaints Board as recommended in the joint communiqué of April 2009 and to release a white paper in response to the report of the Shears-Moses independent inquiry into the events of March 2009;

(c) Recent national efforts to promote political dialogue and tolerance through measures such as the joint verification mission to Gendema of 28 February 2012 to resolve matters related to the registration of Sierra Leoneans residing in neighbouring countries;

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(d) The signing, on 18 May 2012, of a declaration on the 2012 elections by all major stakeholders, including all ten registered political parties, setting the ground rules for the 2012 elections, and committing to peaceful, free and credible elections;

(e) Initiatives to enhance the participation of women in peacebuilding and national politics, including the adoption of political parties-related gender policies and efforts to attain a 30 per cent quota for women in elective and other governance positions, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the formulation and adoption of the Sierra Leone action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008);

(f) The actions undertaken by the Political Parties Registration Commission, with the support of UNIPSIL, to strengthen political dialogue, provide civic and electoral education to party members, and put in place district-level inclusive monitoring mechanisms, such as early warning systems based on mobile technology, aimed at preventing and managing politically motivated violence;

(g) The successful conclusion of the biometric voter registration process within a wider context of timely and effective technical preparations for the November elections, as led by the National Electoral Commission with the support of other relevant national institutions and the international community;

(h) The establishment of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the appointment of the first National Youth Commissioner, the inauguration of the headquarters of the National Youth Commission, and efforts to finalize a comprehensive strategy for youth employment and empowerment, as well as the urging of youth involvement in the political process;

(i) The review of a number of mining contracts, the establishment of a Mineral Cadastre, the stated intention of the Government to reach full compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, plans to establish a national mineral agency to manage mining licences and contracts, and steps taken towards creating an online public repository of data on mining activities;

(j) The work of the National Human Rights Commission, which was awarded "A" status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of providing necessary support for the full implementation of the Agenda for Change and the United Nations Joint Vision for Sierra Leone, as well as for the development of the next national development strategy of Sierra Leone entitled the "Agenda for Prosperity" (2013-2017) and the transitional United Nations Joint Vision (2013-2014);

6. *Welcomes* the role of the Peacebuilding Fund in addressing critical peacebuilding challenges to building sustainable peace in Sierra Leone and, in particular, in preparation for the November elections, through implementation of the UNIPSIL Non-State Actors project;

7. *Commends* the United Nations family, under the leadership of the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, and other international partners for aligning international assistance with the Agenda for Change, in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness;

8. *Commends* the active participation of the Government of Sierra Leone in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, its membership in the work of the g7+ group of States, and its decision to serve as a pilot country for the New Deal reached in the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea;

9. *Stresses* the need for continued national leadership and sustained international support in respect of managing the root causes of conflict constructively, addressing emerging threats to peace consolidation and establishing the conditions that are conducive to holding free, fair and peaceful November elections;

10. *Reiterates* the importance of regional organizations, in particular the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Mano River Union;

11. *Notes* that the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has yielded important benefits for peace consolidation in Sierra Leone and that successful completion of the work of the Special Court will contribute significantly to lasting peace in Sierra Leone;

A. Engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission

12. *Reiterates* its decision to focus its engagement on good governance and the rule of law, illicit drug trafficking and youth employment, as well as its decision to advocate for greater subregional cooperation and the promotion of gender equality and human rights;

13. *Also reiterates* its decision to further focus its engagement in the area of good governance and the rule of law on: multiparty dialogue and democratic governance; corruption; preparations for free, fair and peaceful elections in 2012; and capacity to maintain the rule of law, in particular, with respect to the Sierra Leone Police and courts;

14. *Decides* to concentrate its attention in 2012 on preparations for the elections scheduled for 17 November, and to remain responsive, in close coordination with UNIPSIL, to emerging needs and to requests from the Government, the Security Council, the United Nations and the rest of the international community, as appropriate;

15. *Also decides* to review the scope of its engagement with Sierra Leone following the successful completion of the electoral process in November, in close partnership with the Government and in alignment with any reconfiguration of the United Nations presence on the ground as appropriate and as mandated by the Security Council;

B. Recommendations

Government of Sierra Leone

16. *Recommends* that the Government of Sierra Leone:

(a) Further reinforce efforts to build and consolidate peace and good governance by:

(i) Continuing to engage with all relevant national stakeholders in building national unity through constructive and open dialogue ahead of the November elections, including in the public domain, with the participation of all sectors of Sierra Leonean society, and at all levels of Government;

(ii) Continuing to address the remaining recommendations of the Shears-Moses investigations panel;

(iii) Ensuring the establishment of an independent police complaints mechanism;

(iv) Continuing to strengthen the multiparty democratic culture of Sierra Leone;

(v) Also continuing its support for the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission in ensuring effective preparations for fair, free and peaceful elections in November;

(vi) Appointing a replacement for the late chairperson of the Political Parties Registration Commission;

(vii) Continuing to empower and encourage participation of women and youth, in line with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

(viii) Also continuing the fight against corruption, maintaining a zero-tolerance approach and pursuing wider attitudinal change;

(ix) Further continuing to ensure an appropriate balance of power among the executive, legislative and judicial branches by further strengthening the role of Parliament and consolidating progress in the administration of justice;

(x) Continuing to encourage the development of responsible media in Sierra Leone, particularly through support to the Independent Media Commission and by ensuring that the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation sets high standards for professionalism, independence and neutrality;

(b) Deliver a peace dividend to citizens by:

(i) Investing in youth employment initiatives;

(ii) Ensuring transparency and fairness in the management of the natural and mineral resources of Sierra Leone for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans, as well as by complying with the requirements and deadlines of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative;

(iii) Strengthening efforts aimed at expanding access to justice for all;

(c) Strengthen capacity to respond to security threats by:

(i) Ensuring the financial independence and sustainability of the Transnational Organized Crime Unit;

(ii) Investing in the Sierra Leone Police security apparatus to enable it to maintain law and order throughout the whole territory, in line with international standards;

National stakeholders

17. *Urges* all political parties and their leaders to recognize their joint responsibility for the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone, and to act in the spirit of the declaration on the November 2012 elections signed by all major stakeholders on 18 May 2012, and the joint communiqué of April 2009, as well as to engage in public demonstrations of commitment to peaceful electoral competition;

18. *Stresses* the need for the media of Sierra Leone to exercise its democratic role in a responsible, professional and impartial manner;

19. *Welcomes* the participation of civil society in all aspects of peace consolidation in Sierra Leone and, in particular, notes the critical role of religious and traditional leaders, women and youth;

International partners

20. *Recommends* that international partners:

(a) Continue to align international assistance behind the Agenda for Change, support the United Nations Joint Vision for Sierra Leone (2009-2012) and the transitional United Nations Joint Vision (2013-2014) and respond to emerging funding needs in compliance with the principles of aid effectiveness and national ownership;

(b) Consider fielding election observers, as appropriate, and in accordance with relevant rules and procedures;

(c) Support the further institutionalization and decentralization of the Anti-Corruption Commission;

(d) Support further subregional cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking, especially through the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union, and provide the Transnational Organized Crime Unit with the financial and technical assistance necessary to expand its capacity;

(e) Support the work of the National Youth Commission and the scaling up of successful youth employment and empowerment programmes;

(f) Assist the Government of Sierra Leone in implementing the remaining recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

(g) Encourage the establishment of an effective independent police complaints mechanism;

(h) Assist the Government of Sierra Leone in strengthening the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation, the Political Parties Registration Commission and Independent Media Commission (IMC) towards enhancing their independence and impartiality.

C. Commitments

Members of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

21. *Commit* themselves to pursuing the recommendations outlined in paragraph 20 above;

22. *Also commit* themselves to advocating on behalf of Sierra Leone, in particular with respect to supporting and scaling up the key peacebuilding initiatives outlined in the second joint progress report on the Agenda for Change;

23. *Continue* to support the activities of UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team in Sierra Leone, in particular the role of UNIPSIL in promoting constructive and open inter-party dialogue and establishing the foundations for free, fair and peaceful elections;

24. *Emphasize* the importance of adopting a regional perspective on combating illicit trafficking, and intend to establish closer working relations with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union.